

REMARKS

Applicants have amended claims 24-27 to add in the sequence identifiers. Applicants submit that one of skill in the art reading the specification would understand that the sequence of Figure 7 and SEQ ID NO:13 contains a leader sequence, therefore, requiring a change in numbering. One of skill in the art aligning sequences provided at pages 50-51 with the sequence of Figure 7 would understand the reason for the difference in numbering. No new matter is presented. Claims 23-48 are pending.

Applicants request examination on the merits.

Election of Species

While not acquiescing to the statements of the Examiner, Applicants elect the species of polypeptide modified by deletion, a species of thrombopoietin or cytokines, and further elect the species of TPO comprising amino acids 22-338 of SEQ ID NO:13. Applicants understand this to be an election of species and other species will be searched if these species are found allowable.

Claims 23, 25-28, 30-39 and 43-48 read on the elected species.

Summary

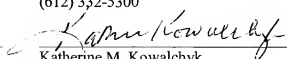
Applicants submit that the claims of the present application are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below, if the Examiner believes that doing so will advance prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,



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